Streams and rivers within the Chequamegon-Nicolet (CNNF) are classified using two systems; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Trout Classification and CNNF aquatic classification system. The WDNR places trout streams into three classes, Class I: high quality systems supporting naturally reproducing brook trout populations, Class II: medium quality systems that support some natural reproduction but may need stocking to supplement and Class III: marginal quality streams with no natural reproduction of trout, solely based on stocking.

The Chequamegon-Nicolet aquatic classification system for streams uses mean bankful width, mean total alkalinity, mean annual maximum water temperature, and distribution of fish and mussels to characterize stream valley segments for application to 2000 miles of stream within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. (Edwards etal, unpub, 2004) Below are the definitions for each class:

NSW (<20ft wide, 5-20mg/l alkalinity, >26°C max water temp) Fishery consists primarily of brook stickleback, mud minnows, finescale dace, creek chubs, and northern redbelly dace.

MLW (20-50 ft wide, >20mg/l alkalinity, >26°C max water temp)
These systems are bigger and as such tend to contain a more diverse fish and mussel community. The fish community consists of 15-25 fish species including several species of darters, dace, redhorse, stonerollers, shiners, hornyhead chubs. 2-4 species of mussels maybe found with the dominant species being three-ridge, fat mucket, and spike.

NLW (<20ft wide, >20mg/l alkalinity, >26° C max water temp)
Fishery community consists of 5-9 minnow type species with creek chub, mudminnow, blacknose dace, white sucker, iowa darter being the dominant species. Generally, this type of stream is too small for mussels but one species may be found in low densities if it connects to be bigger system.

NLO (<20ft wide, >20mg/l alkalinity, 23-26°C max water temp)
These systems are very similar to NMW stream type but have slightly cooler water temperature. Fishery community consists of 3-12 minnow type species. Stickleback, creek chub, pearl dace, mudminnow, white sucker are the most commonly found species. It is highly unlikely to find any mussel species within this type of system**.** It is very important to protect shade along NMO to protect water temperatures.

WLW (>50ft wide, >20mg/l alkalinity, >26°C max water temp)
This type of systems supports a very diverse aquatic community. The fish community consists of 9-27 species, including several species each of darters, dace, redhorse. Popular gamefish such as walleye, musky, and smallmouth bass are also found. There are 8 species of mussels found in the river.

Stream	CNNF Stream Classification	Trout Class	No Aspen Regeneration Buffer (feet)	Eligible National Scenic River	State Wild River
Furbush Creek	NMW				
Julia Creek	MMW				
Kimball Creek	NMW	II			
Fourmile Creek	NMW	II	300		
Mosquito Creek	NMW				
Lone Stone Creek	MMW				
Sevenmile Creek (above Sevenmile Lake)	NMOg				
Sevenmile Creek (below Sevenmile Lake)	WMW				
Ninemile Creek	NMO near HW; NMW unt above Upper Ninemile Lake and MMW	I	300		
Scott Creek	NSW				
Haymeadow Creek	NMW and WMW				
Spring Meadow	UNC	I	300		
Eagle River	UNC (HW main stem) and NSW (unt. South of Scott Creek)				
North Branch Pine River	NMW	II	300	Scenic	Yes

Lakes within the project area include:

Lower Ninemile Lake
Upper Ninemile Lake
Sevenmile Lake
Butternut Lake (project boundary follows shoreline)
Little Fork Lake (project boundary close to east shoreline)
Big Stone Lake (northern bay)
Virgin Lake (project boundary close to east shoreline)
Lone Stone Lake
Pat Shay Lake
Harmony Lake
Franklin Lake
Harriet Lake
Four Ducks Lake
Echo Lake
Sunfish Lake
Three Johns Lake
Two Sisters Lake
Gertrude Lake
Bose Lake
McKinley Lake
Bailey Lake
Spring Lake
Wolf Lake
Julia Lake
Big Fork Lake
Fourmile Lake
Whitefish Lake
Scott Lake
Robbins Lake
Woodbury Lake
Elm Lake
Furbush Lake
Scott Creek Impoundment
Hiles Millpond (small piece in SE corner)